

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A filter assembly comprising:

a filter housing including at least a fluid inlet and a filtrate outlet and defining a fluid flow path between the fluid inlet and the filtrate outlet, wherein the filter housing further includes a removable portion and a cylindrical cage having perforations through the cage;

a cylindrical, hollow filter cartridge removably positioned in the housing in the fluid flow path, the filter cartridge being positioned within and closely adjacent to the cylindrical cage facing the perforations; and

a linkage which includes link elements on the filter cartridge and the filter housing arranged to engage and to rotate the filter cartridge with respect to the cylindrical cage in response to removal of the removable portion of the filter housing, the engaged link elements exerting a twisting force between the filter cartridge and the cage.

2. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 1 wherein the filter housing further includes a remaining portion, the removable portion of the filter housing comprises comprising a rotatable portion removably attached to the remaining portion of the filter housing, wherein the link element on the filter cartridge includes first and second angularly spaced protrusions extending axially from one end of the filter cartridge, and wherein the link element on the filter housing includes first and second angularly spaced protrusions extending from the housing.

3. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 2 wherein the filter housing includes a remaining portion and the rotatable portion is threaded to the remaining portion of the filter housing.

4. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 4-2 wherein the removable portion of filter housing includes a header assembly.

5. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 4-2 wherein the filter housing includes a remaining portion mounted to the removable portion of the filter housing and wherein the perforated cage is mounted to the remaining portion of the filter housing.

6. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the filter cartridge is free of a perforated core..

7. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the filter housing further includes a perforated core arranged to fit within the interior of the hollow filter cartridge.

Claims 8-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein one or more link elements are operatively associated with the removable portion of the filter housing and one or more link elements are operatively associated with the filter cartridge.

12. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the link elements of the filter cartridge each comprise a ~~protrusion on the filter cartridge post~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the link elements of the filter cartridge each comprise ~~an indentation in the filter cartridge~~ a square post.

14. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the filter cartridge has an ~~axially facing end cap~~ and ~~the~~ each link element is positioned ~~at~~ on the end ~~cap~~ of the filter cartridge.

15. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the ~~filter cartridge has a radially facing side and the link element is positioned at the side of the filter cartridge~~ end cap is a blind end cap.

16. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 15 wherein the ~~side comprises the outside of the hollow filter cartridge~~ end cap is an open end cap.

17. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the filter cartridge includes a filter pack comprising one or more polymeric materials.

18. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4-2~~ wherein the link elements are configured to transmit an axial force between the filter cartridge and the cage.

19. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim ~~4~~² wherein at least one of the link elements comprises a protrusion having a hook-shaped configuration.

20. (Currently Amended) A filter cartridge for a filter housing including a cylindrical cage having one or more perforations and further including one or more link elements, the filter cartridge comprising a cylindrical, hollow filter pack configured to fit closely adjacent to the cylindrical cage facing the perforations, the filter pack having first and second ends, and first and second end caps mounted to the first and second ends of the filter pack, at least one of the first and second end caps including one or more link elements, wherein the link elements comprise first and second angularly spaced posts that extend axially from the at least one end cap, the link elements being configured to engage the one or more link elements on the filter housing and exert a twisting force on the filter cartridge within the perforated cage to break the filter cartridge free of the perforated cage.

Claims 21-27 (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim 20 wherein the each filter cartridge link element comprises a protrusion square post extending from the end cap.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim 20 wherein the each filter cartridge link element comprises an indentation in the end cap a generally L-shaped protrusion including the post and a extension extending from an end of the post.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim 20 wherein the link element comprises a first link element and the end cap further includes a second link element angularly spaced from the first link element are diametrically opposed.

Claims 33 and 34 (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) A method for removing a filter cartridge from a filter housing comprising:

removing a removable portion of the filter housing from a remaining portion of the filter housing, including rotating the removable portion;

engaging one or more link elements on the filter housing and one or more link elements on the filter cartridge in response to rotating the removable portion of the filter housing, wherein engaging the link elements includes exerting a twisting force between a perforated cage attached to the filter housing and the filter cartridge positioned within and closely adjacent to the perforated cage to break the filter cartridge free of the perforated cage; and

removing the filter cartridge from the filter housing.

Claims 36 and 37 (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein removing the filter cartridge includes axially sliding the filter cartridge along the perforated cage.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein engaging the link elements further includes exerting an axial force between the perforated cage and the filter cartridge within the perforated cage.

Claims 40 and 41 (Canceled).

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein removing the removable portion of the filter housing includes unscrewing the removable portion of the filter housing from the remainder of the filter housing.